

COSFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

WEST SUFFOLK

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the report of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the Year

1967

DR. E. KINNEAR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

J.D. HACKFORD, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.

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Municipal Offices,
Belle Vue,
Sudbury,
Suffolk.

December, 1968.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cosford Rural District Council.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Public Health Services for the year, 1967.

To Councillor H. Boyle, the Chairman of the Council, to Councillor E.J. Hart, the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and all other Members of the Council may I express my thanks for their consideration to me, during the year.

I am grateful to Mr. C.A. Durrant, the Clerk to the Council, to Mr. J.D. Hackford, the Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector and all other Council Officials for their assistance to me.

Your obedient servant,

E. KINNEAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY DURING

1967

(a) Medical - Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. E. Kinnear, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

This officer does not engage in private practice but holds in addition the following appointments:

Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Sudbury.
Hadleigh U.D.C.
Melford R.D.C.
Thedwastre R.D.C.

Assistant County Medical Officer)
School Medical Officer) West Suffolk County Council.

(b) Other Public Health Officers.

J.D. Hackford, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.,
Incorporated Public Health Engineer, Surveyor and
Senior Public Health Inspector.

Additional Public Health Inspector & Assistant Surveyor,
D.P. Carpenter, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,

Additional Public Health Inspector,
N.A. Shutes, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor E.J. Hart - Chairman.

Councillor J.E.W. Ladbroke - Vice Chairman.

Councillors.

G.R. Armitage.

H. Boyle.

T.C. Clark.

Colonel K.A. Crockatt.

T.C. Dawson.

Miss E.I. Derbyshire.

B.F. English.

Colonel B.J. Haworth.

F.H. Hodgkinson.

Mrs. C.N. McGeorge.

E.J. Morpew.

A.G.P. Powell.

G.A. Riddlestone.

Miss G.R. Steed.

Lt. Colonel G.F. St. C. Stockwell.

Councillor H. Boyle, J.P. - Chairman of the Council.

Councillor G.R. Armitage - Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Mr. C.A. Durrant - Clerk of the Council.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

General Statistics.

Area. 48, 530 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of the resident population.	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>
	9,180	9,120	9,140	9,140	9,110	9,060

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year. (Figures in parentheses
refer to the previous year.)

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	137 (134)	74 (70)	63 (64)
Illegitimate.	9 (7)	3 (3)	6 (4)
Total.	146 (141)	77 (73)	69 (68)

Live birth rate per 1,000 population (crude) 15.9 (15.46)

Live birth rate per 1,000 population (Adjusted) 18.6 (18.0)

Comparability factor. 1.17

Live birth rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales) 17.2 (17.7)

Stillbirths.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	3 (1)	1 (1)	2 (-)
Illegitimate.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Total.	3 (1)	1 (1)	2 (-)

Total Live and Stillbirths.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	140 (135)	75 (71)	65 (64)
Illegitimate.	9 (7)	3 (3)	6 (4)
Total.	149 (142)	78 (74)	71 (68)

Infant Mortality.

Death of Infants Under One Year of Age.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	1 (7)	1 (1)	- (6)
Illegitimate.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Total.	1 (7)	1 (1)	- (6)

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 total live births 6.8 (49.6)

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 total live births
(England and Wales) 18.3 (19.0)

The causes of the infant deaths were as follows:-

<u>Sex.</u>	<u>Age.</u>	<u>Cause of Death.</u>
M.	2 days.	Cerebral haemorrhage.

Stillbirths.

M. Intra-cranial haemorrhage.
Tentorial tear.
Birth injuries.

F. Macerated foetus.
Maternal diabetes.
Accidental haemorrhage.

F. la Spina bifida,
and anacephelus.

Illegitimate birth rate (per cent of total live births 6.1% (4.9%)
Maternal deaths (including abortions) Nil (Nil)
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths. Nil (Nil)

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
	108 (112)	61 (61)	47 (51)
Death rate per 1,000 population (Crude)		11.7	(12.28)
Death rate per 1,000 population (adjusted)		9.4	(10.0)
Comparability Factor.		0.81	(0.82)
Death rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)		11.2	(11.7)

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Birth rate (adjusted)	15.8	18.2	18.2	16.8	18.0	18.6
Death rate (adjusted)	10.0	11.1	12.6	11.0	10.0	9.4
Infant Mortality rate.	7.9	7.0	13.9	Nil.	49.6	6.8
Number of infant deaths.	1	1	2	Nil.	7	1

Age Distribution of Deaths.

	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+
Male.	1	-	-	-	1	1	3	14	18	22
Female.	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	3	10	30
Total.	1	-	-	1	2	1	6	17	28	52

The distribution of certain deaths by age groups.

Age groups.

		35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 -
Cancer of uterus.			-	-	-	1
Cancer of lung	M		2	3	1	2
	F		-	-	-	-
Coronary Heart disease.	M	1	1	3	7	4
	F	-	1	1	4	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system (Strokes)	M		-	1	-	3
	F		1	1	1	4

The Following table gives the causes and the number of deaths occurring during 1967. The grand total correspond with the Registrar General's figures.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
ALL CAUSES.	108 (112)	61 (61)	47 (51)
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.	- (-)		
2. Tuberculosis, other.	- (-)		
3. Syphilitic Disease.	- (-)		
4. Diphtheria.	- (-)		
5. Whooping Cough.	- (-)		
6. Meningococcal Infections.	- (-)		
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.	- (-)		
8. Measles.	- (-)		
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases.	- (-)		
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	1 (2)	1 (1)	- (1)
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	8 (4)	8 (2)	- (2)
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast.	1 (1)	- (-)	1 (1)
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus.	1 (1)		1 (1)
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	12 (10)	4 (7)	8 (3)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	- (1)	- (1)	- (-)
16. Diabetes.	1 (2)	1 (1)	- (1)
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	11 (23)	4 (10)	7 (13)
18. Coronary disease, angina.	25 (25)	16 (16)	9 (9)
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	1 (1)	- (-)	1 (1)
20. Other heart disease.	11 (8)	4 (2)	7 (6)
21. Other Circulatory Disease.	6 (3)	3 (2)	3 (1)
22. Influenza.	- (-)		
23. Pneumonia.	14 (3)	8 (3)	6 (-)
24. Bronchitis.	3 (3)	2 (-)	1 (3)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.	- (4)	- (2)	- (2)
26. Ulcer of stomach and Duodenum.	3 (-)	2 (-)	1 (-)
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	- (-)		
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis.	- (1)	- (1)	- (-)
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate.	- (1)	- (1)	- (-)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	- (-)		
31. Congenital malformations.	1 (1)	1 (-)	- (1)
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	5 (12)	3 (6)	2 (6)
33. Motor vehicle accidents.	1 (2)	1 (2)	- (-)
34. All other accidents.	1 (3)	1 (3)	- (-)
35. Suicide.	2 (1)	2 (1)	- (-)
36. Homicide and operations of war.	- (-)		

Infectious Diseases.

<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	
- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	0% (0%)

Neoplasms, all types.

<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	
23 (19)	13 (11)	10 (8)	21.2% (16.9%)

Vascular diseases including strokes.

<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	
54 (60)	27 (30)	27 (30)	50% (53.5%)

Respiratory diseases (excluding lung cancer.)

<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	
17 (10)	10 (5)	7 (5)	15.7% (9.0%)

Accidents and Violence.

<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	
4 (6)	4 (6)	- (-)	3.7% (5.3%)

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of Infectious Diseases notified to the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	5 (6)	4 (3)	1 (3)
Measles.	202 (46)	100 (21)	102 (25)
Erysipelas.	3 (-)	1 (-)	2 (-)
Whooping Cough.	13 (-)	5 (-)	8 (-)
Pneumonia (acute primary)	4 (3)	2 (3)	2 (-)
Food Poisoning.	- (4)	- (3)	- (1)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total.	227 (59)	112 (30)	115 (29)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.

<u>NEW CASES</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>
Pulmonary	0	1	2	2	0	3	4
Non-Pulmonary.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Mortality.

During 1967 there were no deaths from tuberculosis.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE IN THE
AREA.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory Service, Woodbridge Road East, Ipswich, under the directorship of Dr. P.K. Frazer, provides help and advice, always willingly given, on matters concerning bacteriology and epidemiology and the supply of vaccines and sera in special cases.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

These services since July, 1953, have been provided directly by the County Council, under the direction of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

The West Suffolk County Council District Nurse-Midwives carry out these duties.

(d) Child Welfare Clinics.

The West Suffolk County Council holds child welfare clinics at the following centres in Cosford:-

Bildeston - Chapel School Room 1st Wednesday in
each month.

Lavenham - Guildhall 2nd Tuesday in
each month.

(e) National Assistance Act 1948 - Section 47.

Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and protection.

No proceedings were taken under this Section during the year.

C O S F O R D R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

SURVEYOR and SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year 1967

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Area (acres)	48,530
Population - 1961 Census	9,050
Estimated June, 1967.	9,180
Number of inhabited houses	3,696
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1967.	£213,688
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£803

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S T A F F

J. D. Hackford, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.
Incorporated Public Health Engineer,
Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector.

D. P. Carpenter, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,
Assistant Surveyor, and Public Health Inspector.

N. A. Shutes, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,
Additional Public Health Inspector.

E. A. Green,
Resident Engineer.

J. A. Andrews,
Housing Manager.

A. Hamlin,
Clerk of Works.

Miss Jacqueline Kersey,
General Clerk.

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The Cosford Rural District is entirely agricultural in character with arable farming predominating, and with no heavy industries. Some light industries are established in the larger villages and these, together with farming and building work, provide employment within the District, but a large proportion of the working population commutes to the neighbouring towns of Sudbury, Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, and Colchester.

The Council's policy is to provide sewerage to all parts of the District where it is practical to do so and it is only as a result of unforeseen difficulties in the acquisition of sites for disposal works and pumping stations that this policy has not proceeded at a greater pace.

Encouragement is given to owners to modernise the older class of dwelling-house and it is tangible evidence of success that the number of pails emptied weekly by the night soil collection service has been reduced from over 600 to 300 in the last four years. The response by owners to the declaration of the two Improvement Areas has however been disappointing and the formalities necessary to comply with the provisions of the 1964 Housing Act are, in my view, cumbersome and slow.

The need for improvement of that other essential service - refuse collection and disposal - is now coming more to the fore and the report issued by the Working Party on Refuse Storage and Collection emphasises the shortcomings of the method of collection operated in this - and many other - Rural Districts. With the continuing "drift" of townspeople to live in the country areas, more and more objections are being received from people who are used to a better service, to the requirement to transport dustbins to the kerbside for collection.

The area, largely because of the character of the picturesque villages, attracts ever increasing numbers of holiday visitors and tourists. It is the Council's duty to cater for these by the provision of public conveniences in the main tourist attractions and I would like to see more and better facilities of this sort made available at suitably selected and unobtrusive sites.

W A T E R S U P P L Y

The whole of the Rural District is served by a public water supply operated by the West Suffolk Water Board, Linden House, 147 Kings Road, Bury St. Edmunds. (Tel No: Bury St. Edmunds 2261).

The supply serving most of the Cosford Rural District is derived from boreholes 400 feet deep in the chalk substrata at Semer where the fully automatic all electric pumping plant is capable of providing a supply of 700,000 gallons of water per day. All water is chlorinated at the pumping station to give a chlorine residual of 0.15 parts per million after which it is pumped to the Nedging Tye water tower from whence it is piped into the distribution mains. Depending on the demand, the Northern part of the District including the parishes of Cockfield and Lavenham are occasionally served by the Rushbrook Pumping Station in Thingoe R.D.C. via the Bradfield St. Clare water-tower. The chemical composition of this supply is very similar to that of the Semer supply.

A sample of water taken from the supply from Semer Pumping Station after chlorination and submitted for chemical analysis was reported as follows:-

"This water is of very good organic quality and there is no chemical evidence of pollution. The salinity is a little higher than that of most East Anglian waters but not so high as to affect the palatability of the water. The total hardness is about 26° Clark, of which all but 5° is temporary. The reaction of the water is on the alkaline side of neutrality, as is to be expected. The water was bright and clear and remained so on standing. In our opinion, based on the chemical evidence, this water is suitable for drinking and general purposes."

The fluoride content of the Semer supply is higher than the average for waters in this area and is not far removed from the figure of 1 part per million that is regarded as the optimum from the point of view of dental hygiene.

A detailed report of the activities of the West Suffolk Water Board is made annually by that Authority.

Private Supplies

During the year, a total of 72 samples of water were taken from private supplies for bacteriological examination. Of these 38 were satisfactory for drinking purposes and 34 were unsatisfactory to varying degrees.

The users of water from an unsatisfactory supply are advised to boil or otherwise sterilise it before using it for drinking or domestic purposes and if subsequent samples also prove unsatisfactory are urged to connect to public mains where possible.

The following table shows the number of properties connected to the mains in each parish.

Parish	Total No. of Houses	Houses connected to mains	Dependent of Public Standpipe	On Route but not connected	Not on Route of Mains.
Aldham	54	51	-	-	3
Bildeston	298	295	-	2	1
Boxford	295	282	3	-	10
Brent Eleigh	59	49	-	2	8
Brettenham	100	100	-	-	-
Chelsworth	55	51	-	2	2
Cockfield	272	258	-	10	4
Edwardstone	122	112	-	-	10
Elmsett	158	137	1	10	10
Groton	78	70	-	3	5
Hitcham	224	200	11	1	12
Kersey	154	148	-	-	6
Kettlebaston	26	25	-	-	1
Lavenham	238	631	-	1	6
Layham	195	171	-	7	17
Lindsey	61	53	4	-	4
Milden	48	48	-	-	-
Monks Eleigh	162	150	-	3	9
Nedging-with-Naughton	109	102	6	-	1
Polstead	235	208	2	5	20
Preston St. Mary	72	61	-	-	11
Semer	54	49	-	1	4
Thorpe Morieux	94	94	-	-	-
Wattisham	44	44	-	-	-
Whatfield	89	86	2	-	1
Totals	3,696	94.0%	0.8%	1.3%	3.9%

SEWERAGE and DRAINAGE

Six of the larger villages in the District are now provided with public sewers. Work on the extension of the Boxford sewers which will make main drainage available to the villages of Groton and Edwardstone, and the hamlets of White Street Green and Calais Street were completed by the close of the year. The extensions to the Boxford sewage disposal works necessitated by these extensions and by overloading of the existing works were also nearing practical completion at the end of 1967. The extensions to these works have been carefully designed for ease of maintenance in an endeavour to keep labour to the minimum and I must pay credit to the Council's Consulting Engineers - Messrs Lemon and Blizard - who have co-operated to attain this objective.

Proposals for public sewers at Hitcham, Chelsworth and Elmsett are well advanced but progress is held up pending the completion of negotiations for the acquisition of sites for pumping stations and disposal works. Instructions have also been given to the Council's Consulting Engineers to prepare schemes for the overloaded Lavenham sewage disposal works in which village new housing development is imminent, and a further extension of the Boxford sewer to serve the hamlets of Polstead Heath, and Hadleigh Heath where existing domestic drainage gives rise to offensive conditions owing to the heavy nature of the ground.

The sewerage scheme for the village of Whatfield was the subject of an Inquiry in October, 1967 and received Ministerial blessing in March, 1968. This scheme has been prepared by the Department and is delayed only by the necessity to prepare revised drawings to conform to the Inspector's requirements.

Routine work at the main sewage disposal works has been carried by three men of the Department's works staff. They have serviced and maintained 5 conventional sewage disposal works, 2 extended aeration units and 7 pumping stations and have also had to serve as replacements to other workmen on leave. With less willing or conscientious men the service would have broken down.

These Council's housing estates which are not capable of connection to a public sewer are served by small sewage disposal works. These are undergoing modernisation as improvement work on Council houses progresses and are maintained and serviced by a team of two men.

The two extended aeration units, both of which serve housing sites, have been found to require somewhat more supervision than a conventional works of the same size in order to ensure the discharge of a satisfactory effluent.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The vehicle employed on refuse collection is a Dennis Paxit III A. It is a 35 cu.yd. vehicle equipped with hydraulic compression mechanism, and came into use on 1st April, 1966. It is manned by a crew of three and maintains a collection at a frequency of once per week in the villages of Bildeston, Boxford and Lavenham and once per fortnight throughout the rest of the District. Regular overtime is worked by the refuse collection team and amounts to an average of 9 hours per week. Routine servicing of the vehicle is carried out by Messrs B. A. Taylor and Co., (Bildeston), every fortnight (at weekends), and Planned Maintenance inspection of the vehicle is carried out at regular six monthly intervals by a specialised mechanic.

A kerbside system of collection is worked whereby householders are required to put dustbins at the kerb for collection. In the case of persons who are aged or infirm arrangements are made for the dustbin to be collected from the rear of the premises.

The disused chalk pit at Bildeston, which was brought into use as a refuse tip early in 1966, was completely filled during the year. It was then covered with 12" of topsoil, returned to the farmer from whom it was leased, and it is now incorporated with the adjoining field and under cultivation.

All refuse collected is disposed of at a disused gravel pit at Red Hill, Aldham. The pit is in private ownership and disposal is by license from the owner who charges the Council a fee of £80 per quarter for the use of the pit. The pit is also used by Hadleigh U.D.C., and by private contractors. Maintenance of the tip and the access road is the responsibility of Hadleigh U.D.C., and Cosford R.D.C. has accepted the responsibility of maintaining the pit free from rats, the cost of the treatments being charged to the owner.

No effort is made to carry out tipping by controlled methods, refuse is tipped and burned and the burned-out heaps are levelled at infrequent intervals. Nuisances from smoke, smell, flies and wind-blown paper, etc., have been the subject of complaint from residents in the locality, and representations have been made by the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Kinnear. There seems little prospect of any real improvement, however, while uncontrolled tipping by anyone desirous to do so, is allowed to continue. The tip is regularly visited by scrap dealers and similar persons looking for items of value (scrap iron, etc), and is a source of danger to trespassers while burning.

A railway cutting on the now disused Lavenham/Sudbury line has been the subject of protracted negotiations between the Cosford R.D.C. and British Railways and although the sale is not yet final, access to the cutting was agreed from 1st August, 1968. The point at which a tip could be commenced is about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles along the track from Lavenham railway station where a ramp has been formed to give vehicles access on to the track. Planning consent to the use of the cutting for the disposal of house refuse by controlled tipping has been obtained and I anticipate that this site will shortly be brought into use and the present unsatisfactory tip dispensed with.

The old S. & D. fore-and-aft tipping refuse collection vehicle has been converted into an open lorry for general use and for the removal of heavy items of refuse, car bodies and similar bulky items which cannot be dealt with by the Paxit III A. It has proved to be of great value in this work and well worth the cost of conversion.

Pail Closet and Cesspool Emptying

A weekly pail-closet emptying service operates in those parts of the District not served by a public sewer. The service is carried out under contract by Messrs Tovey Transport Ltd., of Cambridge. It is gratifying to be able to report that the number of pails emptied weekly has gone down by 300 over the past 4 years, and I hope to be able to report a further substantial decrease soon after the Boxford sewer extensions come into use.

The Council also operates a cesspool emptying service utilising a 750 gallon capacity "Dennis" cesspool emptier manned by two men. One "free" emptying per house per annum is allowed, thereafter the service is charged for at the rate of 35/- per load. During 1967, 1,154 loads were removed from 891 cesspools. In addition to this, the cesspool emptier is employed on desludging of settlement and humus tanks at housing site sewage works in the District and on similar work on hire to the Hadleigh U.D.C.

Disposal of cesspool contents is by spreading on agricultural land, but sites suitable for all-the-year round use are scarce, and the number of farmers who are prepared to accept this material on their land gets fewer. In consequence, the Council has given instruction to their Consulting Engineers that when the works are enlarged to cater for the villages of Hitcham and Chelsworth, the new sewage disposal works at Bildeston shall also make provision for the reception and treatment of cesspool contents. Considerable discussion has taken place between the Consulting Engineers and the Department over the method to adopt to best achieve this objective.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1962.

The Cosford Rural District Council has limited delegated powers only and the West Suffolk County Council, Shire Hall, Bury St. Edmunds, (Tel No: Bury St. Edmunds, 2281) is the Local Planning Authority under the Act. All applications for development within the Rural District are submitted to the Cosford Rural District Council and are considered by the Council's Planning Committee whose recommendation is taken into account by the County Planning Department. Contraversial applications are referred to the Sudbury Area Planning Committee which meets monthly. During 1967, 373 applications were made for Planning consent, of these 247 were approved and 84 refused, and 42 were withdrawn or still under consideration at the end of the year. (see table below).

In January, 1968 a comprehensive report entitled "Rural Planning in West Suffolk" was issued by the County Planning Officer, Mr. James M. Gorst. This report lays down the principles of Rural Planning as seen by the County Planning Authority and gives details of the likely growth of this, and other Rural Districts in West Suffolk up to 1981. The report is also concerned with the desirability of the preservation and conservation of the character of the countryside of West Suffolk and its historic villages and lays down the Planning principles which must be adopted to achieve this aim.

Parish	No of Applications	Approved	Refused	Under Consideration or withdrawn.
Aldham	10	9	1	-
Bildeston	16	13	3	-
Boxford	42	32	6	4
Brent Eleigh	6	4	2	-
Brettenham	14	11	3	-
Chelsworth	6	4	-	2
Cockfield	26	20	6	-
Edwardstone	9	7	1	1
Elmsett	22	9	9	4
Groton	6	5	1	-
Hitcham	20	12	5	3
Kersey	12	7	4	1
Kettlebaston	1	1	-	-
Lavenham	57	33	8	16
Layham	18	14	4	-
Lindsey	7	6	-	1
Milden	1	1	-	-
Monks Eleigh	18	13	3	2
Nedging-with-Naughton	20	12	6	2
Polstead	38	18	15	5
Preston St. Mary	4	3	1	-
Somer	5	3	2	-
Thorpe Morieux	3	2	-	1
Wattisham	2	1	1	-
Whatfield	10	7	3	-

BUILDING REGULATIONS 1965.

The coming into operation on 1st February, 1966 of the Building Regulations has resulted in a very considerable amount of additional work in the Department both with regard to the scrutiny of plans submitted and the inspection of work in progress. Every endeavour is made to ensure that the statutory inspections at least are made. The number of applications still, continues to rise, and shows again a new "high" over any previous year. Figures do not give a true picture of the work involved and the issue of a decision under Building Regulations may have involved several lengthy discussions or letters to the applicant and amendment to the original submission to accord with requirements. It is to be hoped that, as builders and Architects become more familiar with the new standards set by the Building Regulations, less time can be spent on checking applications and more time spent inspecting building work in progress. During the year 308 applications were received for consent under Building Regulations an increase of 30 over the previous year; of these applications 290 were approved and 18 rejected.

Parish	No of Applications	Approved	Refused
Aldham	10	10	-
Bildeston	10	10	-
Boxford	27	26	1
Brent Eleigh	5	5	-
Brettenham	13	12	1
Chelsworth	4	4	-
Cockfield	24	24	-
Edwardstone	9	8	1
Elmsett	15	13	2
Groton	9	9	-
Hitcham	17	15	2
Kersey	11	11	-
Kettlebaston	5	5	-
Lavenham	53	49	4
Layham	22	21	1
Lindsey	4	4	-
Milden	2	2	-
Monks Eleigh	14	14	-
Nedging-with-Naughton	17	14	3
Polstead	24	22	2
Preston St. Mary	3	3	-
Semer	1	1	-
Thorpe Morieux	2	2	-
Vattisham	3	3	-
Whatfield	4	3	1

Seven applications for relaxation of the Building Regulations have been received and in all seven cases the Council approved relaxation.

Regulation N.17 (3)(b)	-	4 applications.
Regulation E.15 (1)(c)	-	1 application.
Regulation E.15 (2)	-	1 application.
Regulation K.4 (3)(b)	-	1 application.

HOUSING

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS Etc.,

Improvement Grants remain in steady demand and forty-six applications were received during the year which were dealt with as follows:-

Standard Grants

Applications				Dwellings Improved	
Owner/ Occupiers.	Tenanted Houses	Approved	Refused	Owner/ Occupiers	Tenanted Houses
19	18	36	1	20	22

Total amount paid in Standard Grants £8,258 10s. 4d.

Average grant per house improved £196 12s. 7d.

Amenities provided	(a) Fixed bath or shower	39
	(b) Wash hand basin	40
	(c) Hot water supply	40
	(d) Water closet	39
	(e) Foodstore	25

There seems to be a strong likelihood that the conditions of Standard Grant will be revised in the near future to permit the provision of a refrigerator in lieu of a foodstore - a highly desirable amendment in my view - and to permit of an increase in the amount of grant allocation in order to keep abreast of rising costs.

Discretionary Grants

Applications			Dwellings Improved	
Received	Approved	Refused	Owner/ Occupied	Tenanted Houses
9	7	2	4	3

Total amount paid in Discretionary Grants £4,400 (11 dwellings).

Average grant per house £400

Council House Improvements

Much effort has been spent in carrying out works of improvement by the provision of modern amenities to those Council houses built prior to 1939 and which lacked bathroom, hot water supply and indoor W.C.'s. In 1955 when this work commenced, 234 Council houses required improvement to modern standards. Six of these were subsequently sold to sitting tenants and improvement to full modern standards has been completed to 183. Only 15 houses now remain which lack bathroom, W.C., and hot water supply and these are awaiting the provision of a public sewer owing to drainage difficulties. The remaining 30 houses have baths and W.C.'s but are without an efficient hot water supply and are substandard in one way or another.

It is worthy of note that all this work - drawings, specifications, and tenders - has been prepared by the Council's own staff and carried out by contract under the supervision of the staff. Considering the limited labour available this represents a feat of which the Department has reason to be proud.

Improvement Areas

Survey and inspection of dwellings in the three larger villages - Bildeston, Boxford and Lavenham - has been made with a view to the formal declaration of Improvement Areas under the Housing Act, 1964. Lavenham, the largest village, has been divided into two areas in order to avoid too large and unwieldy an Area and formal Notices have now been served on all owners of substandard tenanted properties. At Boxford, preliminary Notices have been served and at Bildeston the Area is practically ready for presentation.

Area	Preliminary Notices Served	Suspended Notices Served	Immediate Notices Served	Improvements Completed
Lavenham No: 1	20	6	8	1
Lavenham No: 2	26	6	13	-
Boxford No: 3	24	-	-	-
Bildeston No: 4	-	-	-	-

The following table shows the distribution of houses in the District and the proportion of Council owned houses.

	Total houses in Parish	Number of Council Houses	Post-war Council Houses			Houses acquired by Council and improved	Pre-war and emergency war houses	% of houses in parish which are Council Houses
			Total	Built in 1967	Built in 1946-66			
Aldham	54	6	-	-	-	-	6	11%
Bildeston	298	130	107	10	97	-	23	44%
Boxford	295	63	44	-	44	-	19	21%
Brent Eleigh	59	17	6	-	6	-	11	29%
Brettenham	100	8	6	-	6	-	2	8%
Chelsworth	55	2	-	-	-	-	2	4%
Cockfield	272	68	48	8	40	-	20	25%
Edwardstone	122	24	12	-	12	-	12	20%
Elmsett	158	32	22	-	22	-	10	20%
Groton	78	12	-	-	-	-	12	16%
Hitcham	224	31	21	-	21	-	10	14%
Kersey	154	25	22	-	22	-	3	16%
Kettlebaston	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lavenham	638	209	175	28	147	4	30	33%
Layham	195	16	16	-	16	-	-	8%
Lindsey	61	6	2	-	2	-	4	10%
Milden	48	6	4	-	4	-	2	12%
Monks Eleigh	162	22	16	-	16	-	6	13%
Nedging-with-Naughton	109	24	10	-	10	-	14	22%
Polstead	235	42	32	-	32	-	10	18%
Preston St. Mary	72	6	4	-	4	-	2	8%
Semer	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thorpe Morieux	94	14	8	-	8	-	6	15%
Wattisham	44	2	-	-	-	-	2	5%
Whatfield	89	43	24	-	24	-	19	48%
Total:	3,696	808	579	46	533	4	225	22%

Private houses built post-war:-

1946-1966	1967	Total
389	67	456

Private houses under construction at 31st December, 1967 - 126

Council houses under construction at 31st December, 1967 - 42

H O U S I N G a n d P U B L I C H E A L T H

Action under Statutory Powers during the year

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 12 and 39
of the Housing Act, 1957:-

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
Notices were served requiring repairs - Nil

Number of dwelling houses which were rendered
fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners - Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default
of owners. - Nil

Proceedings under Sections 16, 17, 19, 21 and 23
of the Housing Act, 1957

Notices of "Time and Place" outstanding from
year 1965 - 11

Notices of "Time and Place" served - 43

Dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition
Orders were made - 22

Dwelling houses in respect of which Closing
Orders were made - 6

Dwelling houses in respect of which Undertakings
were accepted - 7

Notices of Time and Place outstanding - 19

Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition
Orders - 13 + 1 informal.

Houses closed in pursuance of Closing Orders or
Undertaking - 4

Number of families displaced as a result of housing
action - 12

Number of persons included in these families - 35

Proceedings under Sections 18, 19 and 27
of the Housing Act, 1957:-

Number of parts of dwelling houses in respect of
which Closing Orders were made - Nil

Number of parts of dwelling houses closed in
pursuance of Closing Orders - Nil

Proceedings under Sections 42 and 43 of
the Housing Act, 1957:-

Number of houses demolished in Clearance
Areas. - Nil

Houses subject to Demolition Orders, Closing
Orders and Undertaking Not to Relet subsequently
made fit to the satisfaction of the Council:-

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
Demolition Orders were revoked - 3

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
Undertakings were cancelled after being made
fit for habitation - 14

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
Closing Orders were removed after being made
fit for habitation. - 3

Notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936

Statutory Notices	outstanding 1st January, 1967	- 35
"	" served during 1967	- 14
"	" complied with during 1967	- 18
"	" outstanding 31st December, 1967	- 31

SWIMMING BATHS

No public swimming bath is provided within the Cosford Rural or Hadleigh Urban Districts although plans are afoot and monies are being collected for a swimming bath at Hadleigh. An open air swimming pool at which the water is to be heated shortly is available at Sudbury and heated indoor pools at Ipswich. Monks Eleigh Primary School is provided with an open air "Purley" pool, and a larger heated, covered pool is provided at the Boxford Primary School; these are used solely for educational purposes. In both cases the water is circulated, filtered and chlorinated. Samples are taken from time-to-time to ensure bacterial purity were all reported "Satisfactory".

SCHOOLS

There are ten village schools in the District and all are supplied with water from the Council's mains. The schools at Bildeston, Boxford, Lavenham, Kersey and Monks Eleigh, have water-closets connected to the public sewers. The schools at Cockfield and Polstead have water-closets connected to cesspools. The remaining schools at Elmsett, Hitcham and Whatfield still have ELSAN closets. These cannot be considered satisfactory closet accommodation for Schools, but as I have already reported, schemes for the provision of sewerage to these villages are in hand and the School Authorities have indicated that as soon as the sewer is available, improvements will be put in hand.

FOOD AND DRUGS INSPECTION

Milk Supply

All milk sold in the District is "Sterilised" "Pasteurised" or "Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised)". Two milk distributors operate from premises at Boxford, and Hitcham, but no loose milk is handled.

Ice Cream

No premises are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream.

35 premises are registered for the sale only of pre-packed ice cream.

Mobile vans operate in the District but are based outside it. These are inspected from time to time but, in general, give little cause for complaint.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

No slaughtering is now carried out at any premises in the District and local butchers obtain their supplies from meat wholesalers.

The food premises in the District are listed as follows:-

Hotels and licensed premises	- 40
Restaurants	- 3
Grocers	- 31
Confectioners	- 7
Butchers	- 6
Fishmongers	- 1
Dairies	- 2
Greengrocers	- 5
Bakers	- 2
Fried fish shops	- 1

The following premises are registered under the provisions of Section 16, of the Food and Drugs Act:-

Manufacture of sausages, potted pressed, pickled or preserved food	- 9
Manufacture of ice cream	- Nil
Sale of ice cream	- 35

Regular routine visits are carried out to food premises and various minor contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations have been remedied after discussion with the occupiers. No legal proceedings were instituted.

RODENT CONTROL

One full-time Rodent Operator is employed to carry out all treatment at private, business and agricultural premises, and at sewage works, tips and other Council-owned properties, as directed. Treatment at domestic premises is carried out free of charge; business and agricultural treatments are carried out on a "Time and materials" charge. The same Operator also carried out treatments within the Hadleigh Urban District on a rechargeable basis. No treatments are carried out under Contract. "Warfarin" rat poison is used exclusively in order to ensure maximum safeguard against accidents caused by ingestion by animals other than rats. All properties at which infestations were found were treated, each treatment involving several visits until no evidence of infestation was apparent. A 10% test baiting of the sewer was carried out during the year and minor infestation cleared.

The work carried out by the Rodent Operator during the year is indicated in the following table:-

	Type of Property	
	Domestic	Agricultural
1. No. of properties in District	3,612	587
2. (a) No. of properties inspected following notification	401	21
(b) No. of above infested by		
(i) Rats	400	21
(ii) Mice	1	-
3. (a) No. of properties inspected for reasons other than notification	25	-
(b) No. infested by		
(i) Rats	4	-
(ii) Mice	-	-

CARAVAN SITES and MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The following licenses under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1961, were in force. Several visits were made to each site during the year and minor defects remedied.

Individual caravans	-	26
2 caravans	-	3
3 caravans	-	1
6 caravans	-	1
20 caravans	-	1
24 caravans	-	1

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections.	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	4	4	Nil	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	30	30	Nil	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals:	34	34	Nil	Nil

OFFICES SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Class of Premises	Number of Premises Registered	Number of Registered Premises Inspected.
Offices	3	1
Retail Shops	15	13
Wholesale shops	1	1
Catering establishments	1	1
Fuel storage depots	-	-
Totals:	20	15

